#### LEVELTON CONSULTANTS LTD.

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12 March 2014 Levelton File # R714-0308-00

WSP Canada Inc. Suite 400 – 401 Garbally Road Victoria, BC V8T 5M3

Attention: Mr. Ron Akehurst, P. Eng.

#### RE: GEOTECHNICAL ASSESSMENT HIGHWAY NO. 4 – PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

As requested, Levelton Consultants Ltd. (Levelton) has carried out a geotechnical assessment relating to two specific sections of Highway 4 within the Pacific Rim National Park that have been performing poorly. The sections included approximately 300 m of southbound lane near Station 16+000 (as measured from the southern limit of the park) and approximately 50 m of southbound lane near Station 13+000.

Levelton's scope of work was described in our 7 January 2014 proposal (File Reference: P713-3036-00). Authorization to proceed with the work was received from WSP on 3 February 2014.

#### 2.0 SITE REVIEW

The subject sections of road are located on Highway No. 4 near the Esowista Reserve and directly south of the Tofino Airport, as approximately shown on Figure 1. Levelton visited the site on 11 February 2014 to review the site conditions and lay out the locations of boreholes for the subsurface assessment (see below). Select photographs taken during the site visit are attached. A summary of our observations from the site review is presented below.



# 2.1 Station 16+000

This section of highway was about 300 m in length and had various sections of the east bound lane that appeared to be performing poorly. The worst area appeared at the westernmost part of this section near the Esowista Reserve. This area was a curved and sloped section of road where the terrain sloped down from north to south and from west to east. Concrete barriers ("no-posts") lined the south shoulder of the road and the terrain dropped down steeply to the south to about 6 m in elevation below of the concrete barriers.

Several large longitudinal cracks were observed in this area. The cracks were open at the surface, with the most obvious near the south shoulder where the crack had opened about 60 mm. A tape measurer could reach to a depth of 200 mm before encountering resistance.

The terrain in the easterly part of this section was generally level in an east-west direction along the highway and gently sloped from north down to south across the highway. The slope beyond the south shoulder of road was steep in some areas with an elevation change in the order of 1.5 m to 1.8 m below the road. There was a watercourse with a 1.2 m diameter culvert in this area. Water was present on the inlet (north) and outlet (south) side of the culvert, but flow was only observed entering the inlet side of the culvert.

In 2010, Levelton carried out a subsurface assessment near the eastern part of this section as part of a sewer project. As part of that project, a borehole (BH10-07) was drilled and logged by Levelton about 140 m east of the area on the north side of the road. At that time, the conditions in the borehole consisted of 180 mm of layered asphalt, overlying 580 mm of sand and gravel fill, overlying organic silt. A significant amount of wood debris was encountered at the surface of the organic silt. The approximate location of BH10-07 is shown on Figure 2 and the summary borehole log is attached for reference.

#### 2.2 Station 13+000

The section of highway at Station 13+000 was sloped and curved. The terrain sloped down from the north to south and from the east to west. No-post concrete barriers lined the south side of the road. There was a linear crescent-shaped crack, about 30 to 50 m in length, along the south side of the road. The crack was open at the surface about 12 mm in some areas. Adjacent to the crack, the shoulder of the road was relatively narrow and the terrain dropped down steeply about 10 m in elevation to the south from within about 300 mm from the outside edge of the no-post barriers.

In 2010, Levelton carried out a subsurface assessment near this road section as part of a sewer project. As part of that project, a borehole (BH10-17) was drilled through the south shoulder about 400 m to the west, and a borehole (BH10-20) was drilled through the south shoulder about 250 m to the east. At that time, the conditions in BH10-17 consisted of about 450 mm of sand and gravel fill, overlying natural sand deposits. BH10-20 encountered 450 mm of sand and gravel fill, overlying about 600 mm of silt, overlying silty clay. The approximate locations of BH10-17 and BH10-20 are shown on Figure 3 and their summary logs are attached for reference.



# 3.0 SUBSURFACE ASSESSMENT

Four boreholes (BH14-01 through BH14-04) were advanced as part of the current assessment at the approximate locations shown on Figures 2 and 3. The boreholes were located in areas where there was visible distress (i.e., cracks) in the east bound lane of the road.

Each borehole was advanced using a track mounted auger drill that was owned and operated by Drillwell Enterprises Ltd. of Duncan, BC. BH14-01, 02, and 03 were advanced within the 300 lineal metre area of road described as 'Station 16+000' in this report. BH14-04 was located within the 50 lineal metre area described as 'Station 13+000'. At each location, the existing asphalt was removed and a Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (DCP) was driven from the point below asphalt to a depth that was greater than the height of the road prism above natural grade to the south. The DCP provides an indication of soil consistency and is recorded as the number of blows per 300 mm depth driven by a 63.5 kg hammer falling 760 mm. Where suspected soft soils were encountered, a field vane was used to measure peak and remolded shear strengths. A solid stem continuous flight auger was advanced at each borehole location to log the subsurface conditions encountered and to recover samples for laboratory testing.

A detailed description of the subsurface conditions encountered is provided on the attached borehole logs. In summary of these logs, a general description is presented as follows:

- Asphalt (in layers 180 mm to 330 mm thick); overlying
- Compact SAND AND GRAVEL (19 mm crush road base) FILL; overlying
- Loose to compact SAND and GRAVEL FILL with some organics; overlying
- Firm to stiff SILTY CLAY.

BH14-02 varied from the above in that loose, organic "midden like" material was encountered at a depth of about 1.5 m to 2.4 m below the sand and gravel fill. Loose sand was found below this material and above the silty clay, which was encountered at a depth of 4.0 m. Groundwater was encountered at a depth of about 1.5 m in this borehole. In addition, geotextile was encountered at a depth of 1.3 m below surface in BH14-04.

# 3.1 Laboratory Testing

Samples were selected based on the findings for laboratory testing, which included moisture content determination, grain size analysis, and Atterberg Limits testing. The testing results are shown on the borehole logs and the attached sieve analyses sheet, and are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Location	Depth (m)	% Fines*	% Sand	% Gravel
BH14-01	0.3 to 1.2	10.5	77.4	12.1

#### Table 1: Summary of Grain Size Analyses

\* Fines include silt and clay size particles.

The above noted grain size analysis is based upon a percentage by mass. Within the 'sand' component, there was a significant amount of wood debris, estimated to be about 50% by volume.

Atterberg Limits were performed on a sample of the fine-grained material from BH14-01, BH14-02, and BH14-04 at a depths of 4.0 m, 4.3 m, and 2.1 m, respectively. The results are presented in the following Table 2:



Location	Depth (m)	Plastic Limit %	Liquid Limit %	Plasticity Index	Moisture Content %	Classification
BH14-01	4.0	27.4	81.0	53.6	64.8	СН
BH14-02	4.3	19.1	38.7	19.6	29.7	СМ
BH14-04	2.1	44.9	76.4	31.5	68.0	ОН

# Table 2: Results of Atterberg Limits

The fine-grained material described in Table 2 is classified as inorganic clays of medium (CM) to high (CH) plasticity and organic clay (OH) - based upon the Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual  $-4^{th}$  Edition.

Outside of moisture content determination, no specific laboratory tests were performed on the midden-like material noted in BH14-02. However, upon drying the sample, a fragment of bone was observed.

# 4.0 Geotechnical Comments and Recommendations

# 4.1 General

The results of our field and laboratory testing indicate that the subject road sections are located over compressible soils that are susceptible to long term consolidation settlement under applied loads. It is apparent from the condition of the road sections that settlement is ongoing, especially where there is a relatively steep embankment slope and a relatively narrow shoulder. The potential for larger settlements occur in the highly compressible soils with high moisture content (which were found in BH14-01 and BH14-04), and in areas where organic soils were encountered. In the absence of survey monitoring data, and/or laboratory consolidation data, it is difficult to predict the magnitude of future settlements for these areas. Where organics are encountered, this settlement will continue independently of applied load, as the organics break down over time.

Levelton understands that it was common to use logs to spread the load over these compressible soils during early road construction. During drilling, there was evidence of wood pieces at the interface of fill and underlying natural soils that may be the remains of this type of road construction. There was also an attempt to use geotextile to improve road conditions in the area of BH14-04. Levelton observed the placement of this geotextile material in the 1980's as part of a pavement resurfacing program. The geotextile has not demonstrated to be overly effective in the east bound lane and would not prevent consolidation settlement.

Road repairs in the past have also consisted of placing additional layers of asphalt, which is also evidence that the road has continued to settle over a significant period of time. Placing additional layers of asphalt has added more load to these compressible soil areas.



The midden-like material that was encountered in BH14-02 contained a significant amount of organics and would be prone to settlement. Organic silt deposits found in BH10-07 also contained a significant amount of woody debris. Levelton recommends that the presence of the midden-like material be reported to the Archaeology Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

As described above, the 1.2 m diameter culvert that was located near BH14-02 and BH14-03 has flows entering the inlet but not exiting the pipe. As such, it is likely corroded and is allowing water to enter into the road fill prism and subgrade. This condition could lead to future stability issues if the water scours and removes fill and subgrade material during high flows and washes out parts of the road.

# 4.2 Potential Mitigation Solutions

From a geotechnical perspective, several options could be considered to help mitigate ongoing settlements in the subject sections. With each option, WSP and the Owner should consider long-term performance expectations. One item that should be considered carefully is the performance of the road structure during strong earthquake ground motions. This is particularly important if the section of road in question is the planned evacuation route from a tsunami. Although not included as part of this geotechnical assessment, the loose and wet nature of the sandy soils and the relatively steep embankment fill slopes would likely not perform well in response to strong earthquake ground motions.

The best solution to mitigate settlement would be to avoid the compressible soils and rebuild the road elsewhere. These soils may have been avoided if the road was originally constructed further north. However, assuming that the road alignment will remain in the same location, the most practical solution would include reconstruction of the poorly performing areas, which would include:

- 1. Removing existing asphalt, fill, organics and wood debris within the road prism;
- 2. Removing and replacing corroded culverts;
- 3. Designing a road prism with stable embankment slopes, with grades typically not steeper than 2H:1V; and
- 4. Constructing a road embankment using lightweight fill products, such as pumice, or expanded polystyrene.

The intent of the lightweight fill would be to create an unloading effect of the highly compressible soils. As noted above, the organic soils and wood debris should be completely removed as they will settle independently of load due to material decomposition.

The design would have to consider a road prism that is wider than the current prism, or include some form of a retaining wall system to stay within the current footprint. A retaining wall system would have to be light enough so as not to add additional load the compressible soils.

If the road footprint is to be widened, the design should account for encountering potential compressible soils that have not experienced any additional loads. A component of the design would include laboratory consolidation testing of these soils to assess how much additional load could be placed on virgin soils and how much would need to be removed from currently loaded soils. Further, more detailed subsurface work would be required to obtain relatively undisturbed Shelby Tube samples of the compressible soils for laboratory consolidation testing. The more detailed geotechnical assessment would also be used to delineate the extent of the compressible deposits and could also be used to establish parameters for a seismic stability assessment, if this was considered important for emergency road evacuation performance.



If the road cannot be reconstructed at this time, some localized improvements could be carried out. These would include repair of existing culverts along with localized unloading which would involve removing layers of existing asphalt and replacing localized poor soils with lightweight backfill. If this is the only option that is considered at this time, light weight pumice fill soils should be incorporated into a geosynthetically confined soil (GCS) system. GSC is a layered network of closely spaced soil (200 mm thick) confined between layers of geotextile. The GCS would provide increased shear strength to support areas that are locally steep and would buffer settlements across the road. This would be best suited for the high embankment and locally steep embankment areas that were encountered at BH14-01 and BH14-04.

Removing and replacing asphalt in these poorly performing areas will be a short lived improvement. Adding more asphalt will potentially worsen the problem.

# 5.0 FUTURE GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES

For the proposed road upgrade, Levelton anticipates that the following geotechnical services could be required:

- Meet with WSP and the Owner to discuss mitigation options that are in line with expected performance;
- Propose and implement a detailed geotechnical assessment for consolidation work, seismic design, and delineation of poor areas;
- Prepare a design specification and section for lightweight backfill;
- Prepare a retaining wall design;
- Review geotechnical aspects of tender specifications; and
- Carry out construction reviews and provide geotechnical support.

#### 6.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by Levelton Consultants Ltd. (Levelton) exclusively for WSP Canada Inc. for application to the project described herein. The report has been prepared in accordance with standard soil mechanics practice and the attached Terms of Reference for Geotechnical Reports.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly, LEVELTON CONSULTANTS LTD.

Reviewed by:

#### SIGNATURE ON FILE

#### SIGNATURE ON FILE

Per: Don Kaluza, P. Eng. Senior Geotechnical Engineer Tom Oxland, P. Eng. Senior Geotechnical Engineer

Enclosures: Figure 1: Site Location Plan Figures 2 and 3:Borehole Location Plan Site Photographs Borehole Logs Laboratory Testing Terms of Reference for Geotechnical Reports



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#### Levelton Consultants Ltd.

8-2663 Kilpatrick Avenue Courtenay, BC Canada V9N 7C8 Tel.: 250-334-9222 Fax.: 250-334 3955 E-mail: courtenay@levelton.com

#### AGGREGATE GRADATION ANALYSIS

IDENTIFICATION: Client Project	<u>Genivar</u> Highway 4	Slone Review - P	acific Pim National Park BC	. <u> </u>	File No: <u>F</u>	<u> 1 1</u>
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SAMPLING INFOR Material: Specification:	RMATION: Organic Sar Gradation	nd, fine to mediun	n grained, trace gravel, some	e silt	Sieve	Analysis
			Sieve High Specific	ow Spec	Sieve 9	% Passing
Date Sampled Date Tested Sample No.: Fracture: Supplier: Sampled by: Tested by:	21-Feb-14 27-Feb-14 1 na LCL RH RH	-	Sieve nigh Spec i	37.5 25 19 12.5 9.50 4.75 2.36 1.18 0.600 0.300 0.150 0.075	100.0 100.0 98.5 98.1 93.5 87.9 82.4 77.9 68.4 33.3 10.5	
AGGREGATE GR	ADATION:					
90 80 70 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0.01 REMARKS:	Tested in acc	.10	1.00 SIEVE OPENING (mm) M C- 136 and C-117	10.00		gradation High Spec Low Spec
REMARKS:	Vood Debris by volume ret	cordance with AST observed to be app ained on the 2.36m	M C- 136 and C-117 proximately 50% Im sieve.			
REPORTS TO:					LEVELTON	I CONSULTANTS LTD

This report represents a testing service only. No engineering interpretation opinion is expressed or implied. Engineering review and interpretation can be provided on written request.



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#### Sewer and Lift Stations Tofino, BC Geotechnical Assessment

# BH10-17

Pg 1 of 1

Project No: VI10-1223-00

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		-		C to	ompact, SAND AND GRA subbase, moist.	VEL (FILL), road base														+
		2	9 0	D to	ense, grey, SAND, mediu some gravel, moist.	m to fine grained, trace							 					-		+
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9709-5221- G		nditio	n of Sa	nple	<u>Type: Type of Sampler</u> SPT : 2 In. standard	<u>N: Number of Blows</u> WH : Weight of Hammer	• <u>-</u>		69 N 2≫-F	Noisture Nastic Li	Conten imit nit	ı <b>l %</b> .	1 <u></u>	·····.					·]	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
Dis	ituri Re	bed cover			S : Shelby FP : Fixed Piston	WR : Weight of Rod Standard Penetration Test : ASTM I	21586		¥ c	Stound N Shear str	Vates L rength i	evel nikPan	(Torvan	eor		· ·		· 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
24 2 1			.e • <u>E</u>	<u>ب</u> ــــــ	G : Grab	Hammer Type: Trip Hammer			P X S	Penetroa Shear str	nəter) Tengih i	n kPa j	Uncon	(ned)	Drill Method:					
CORE THIS LOG IS FOR GEOTECHNICAL PURPOSES ONLY								8 S 8 F	Shear str Remoide	ength ù d strent	n kPa sth in k	(field va (Pa	ne)		Si a Tui	olid St	em A	uger varate		
<u></u>	00	THI ONSULT IN ANY	S LOG IS T IANTS LTD WAY WIT	HE SOL AND C HOUT ED	E PROPERTY OF LEVELTON ANNOT BE USED OR DUPLICATED KPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION.				<b>K</b> A P	ercent i	Passing	# 200	sievę		By:	ະ <b>ມ</b> ແ		RH	a.2011	<u></u>





#### Sewer and Lift Stations Tofino, BC Geotechnical Assessment

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Project No: VI10-1223-00

	Depth (m) (ft)		Description			с	N	Type	Nater Level	10 20 30 40 50 50 70 80 60							
				Compact, SAND AND GRA road base and subbase, tre	VEL (VARIOUS FILL), ice to some silt, moist.		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					40 :					
		2		Soft to firm, mottled orange gravel, moist.	brown, SILT, trace	····											
	-	4_		Firm, orange brown, silty, C gravel.	LAY, trace sand and												
	2 _	۔ ب		an a			•	G		<b>FP @ 1</b> .5	m = 1.5 is	ſ					
		- 88		- firm, blue grey, trace to so	me gravel, moist at 2,5m			G.									
		10 		<ul> <li>increased plasticity conter</li> <li>trace to some sand below</li> </ul>	nt below 3.0m 3.0m depth.												
		12.		Rottom of hole	at 3.7 metres			G									
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23.00	<u>C: Co</u>					69 № 19 P	loisture ( lastic Lin	Content % ait									
110-12	Distu	d     SPT : 2 in. standard     WH : Weight of Hammer       urbed     S : Shelby     WR : Weight of Rod       Recovery     FP : Fixed Piston     Standard Penetration Test : ASTM					4 1	iquid Lim iround W	it (ater Level					1999 - S.			
SE V	No R				01586		∞ s	hear stre	ngth in kPa								
2 PAC		G : Grab		G : Grab CORE	DYNAMIC CONE PENETRATION 1	EST: [	X Shear strength in kPa (Uacc				(Usconfined	) Cri	Drill Method;				,   ,
C PEr	THIS LOG IS FOR GEDTECHNICAL PURPOSES ONLY         Blow count no. c           THIS LOG IS YHE SOLE PROPERTY OF LEVELTON         hammer dropper           CONSULTANTS LID AND CANNOT BE USED ON BUPLICATED         12in (300mm) of           WANY WAY WITHOUT EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION.         12in (300mm) of				Blow count no. of blows of a 140 hammer dropped 30in. (750mm)	lb (64 l to prod	ig) Jce		emolded	strength in KPa	(neeo vane) (Pa	Da	te Drilie	en A d:	⊿ger / 7/22	12010	1
<u>0</u>					12in (300mm) of a 2in (50mm) di	ameter	cone.	BRP	ercont P	By:	By: RH						

		Sewer and Tofin Geotechnical	Sewer and Lift Stations Tofino, BC Geotechnical Assessment							BH10-21 Pg 1 of 1							
LEV	elto	N										Proj	ect N	o: VI	110-1	223-00	
Depth m) (ft)		Description	с	N	Type	Water Level		10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	
-		Compact to dense, brown, SAND AND GRAVEL (FILL), roadbase/subbase, occasional cobble sizes to 100mm diameter.															-
2		Firm to stiff, mottled orange brown/grey, SILT, trace	-							¥].							

G.

???? 1.2m = 2.0 tsf

₽₽.@1.5m = 2.0 tsf Ø

	2	4 6 8		-stiff, greenish
		10 - - 12	60 60 61	Compact to de GRAVEL, nur diameter, wet.
	4	- 14	57 L.T.=1.X.;	B
		18		
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DT 8/19/		22 _		

(m)

2

moist.

# PP @ 1.8m = 1.0 tsf blue, trace to some sand, moist. G PP@21m = 1.5 tsf ense, blue grey, silty, SAND AND merous gravel sizes to 25mm ٩ İΠΠ G ottom of hole at 4.0 metres.

Firm to stiff, mottled orange brown/grey, SILT, trace

sand, occasional gravel sizes to 50mm diameter,

GPJ LEVELTON GOT 8	22							
1 LOG PER PAGE MI0-1223-00.	C: Condition of Sample       Type: Type of Sampler         Good       SPT : 2 in standard         Disturbed       S: Shelby         No Recovery       FP : Fixed Piston         G: Grab       CORE         THIS LOG IS FOR GEOTECHNICAL PURPOSES ONLY         YHIS LOG IS FOR GEOTECHNICAL PURPOSES ONLY         YHIS LOG IS FOR BROPERTY OF LEVELTON         consult hand cannot be used on publicated         IN ANY WAY WITHOUT EXPRESS WHITTEN PERMISSION.	N: Number of Blows WH : Weight of Hammer WR : Weight of Rod Standard Penetration Test : ASTM D1586 Hammer Type: Trip Hammer DYNAMIC CONE PENETRATION TEST: Blow count no. of blows of a 140 lb (64 kg) hammer dropped 30in. (750mm) to produce 12in (300mm) of a 2in (50mm) diameter cone.	<ul> <li>Moisture Content %</li> <li>Plastic Limit</li> <li>Liquid Limit</li> <li>Ground Water Level</li> <li>Shear strength in kPa (Torvane or Penetrometer)</li> <li>Shear strength in kPa (Unconfined)</li> <li>Shear strength in kPa (field vane)</li> <li>Remoided strength in kPa</li> <li>Percent Passing # 200 sieve</li> </ul>	Drill Method: Solid Stem Auger / DCPT Date Drilled: <u>7/22/2010</u> By: <u>RH</u>				



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